

# Claims

- [c1] A communications network between automation devices consisting:
  - an automation device capable of communicating using a TCP and an IP messaging technique,
  - whereby the messaging technique consists of sending a message to reserved TCP/IP system port 502,
  - and whereby said applications layer message includes a cyclic redundancy check field.
- [c2] The communication network between automation devices of claim 1 whereby the cyclic redundancy check field is calculated using a CRC-32 algorithm.
- [c3] The communication network between automation devices of claim 1 whereby the applications layer message further includes a time stamp representing the time that the message was sent.
- [c4] The communication network between automation devices of claim 3 whereby the applications layer message further includes a time stamp qualifier.
- [c5] A method of communicating between automation devices comprising

formulating an applications layer message that includes a cyclic redundancy check;  
transmitting said message over an Ethernet network using a TCP/IP stack, whereby said message is sent to TCP/IP system port 502.

- [c6] The method of communicating between automation devices in claim 5 whereby the cyclic redundancy check is calculated using a CRC-32 algorithm.
- [c7] The method of communicating between automation devices in claim 5 further comprising the step of determining a time stamp and including said time stamp in the applications layer message.
- [c8] The method of communicating between automation devices in claim 7 whereby the applications layer message further includes a time stamp qualifier.